

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 and 21-54 have been examined. Claims 1-13 have been allowed; claims 14, 21, 23, 24, 26-39 and 41-53 stand rejected; and claims 22, 25, 40 and 54 are objected to. By the above amendments, claim 14 has been amended, and claims 15-54 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof. Applicant expressly reserves the right to file continuation applications to pursue the canceled subject matter of these claims. Accordingly, claims 1-14 are pending in the subject application. Favorable reconsideration of the application and allowance of all of the pending claims are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 14 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite with regard to the recitation of “the clarified liquor is cooled . . . prior to said step of removing aluminate ions.” The language “prior to said step of removing aluminate ions” has been deleted from claim 14. Applicant submits that amended claim 14 satisfies the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection and to allow this claim.

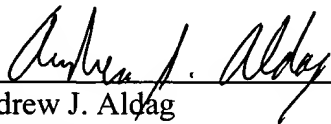
Regarding the rejections and objections to claims 21-54, these rejections and objections are moot in light of the cancellation of these claims.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to find the application to be in condition for allowance with claims 1-14. However, if for any reason the Examiner feels that the application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney to discuss any unresolved issues and to expedite the disposition of the application.

**U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/936,781
Amendment**

Applicant hereby petitions for any extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee for such extension is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 05-0460.

Respectfully submitted,



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